Gliding Club Of Victoria

Photographs
From
The Private Collections
Of
Leo, Rob & Frank Dowling

Version: 2
Prepared By: Peter Dowling
10th November 2007

About this Document

This document was created to enable the photographs in the collections of Leo, Rob and the late Frank Dowling to be shared by their families and colleagues alike.

Many of the subjects of these photographs have not yet been fully identified, please feel free to advise us of any errors or to help identify the event, location of subject of the photographs.

The photographs are not in any particular order, they are roughly as they were scanned from loose individual photos or albums.

Copies of this document will upon request be provided in PDF format on CD or DVD. The CD or DVD will also contain the high resolution digital images of the original photographs as used in this document. The CD or DVD will also contain two additional documents, 'Plane Mad' and 'Memories of Fawkner', both written by Leo Dowling with contributions from Rob Dowling.

'Plane Mad' is a collection of stories by Leo & Rob Dowling about their experiences with flight throughout their lives.

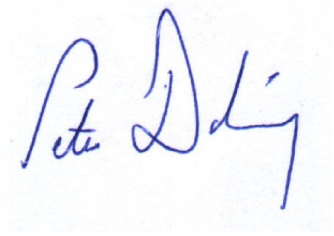
'Memories of Fawkner' is a collection of stories by Leo Dowling about growing up on a farm in Fawkner.

These documents are the property of the families of Leo, Rob and Frank Dowling. As the custodian of these document I grant permission to any interested party to reproduce the documents provided it is not for profit or fee.

This Version, of "this" document has been extensively revised as a result of the input received over the last 12 months from various colleagues of the aforementioned Dowling brothers. A number of addition photographs have also been added. Image (photograph) numbers have been added to assist in identifying the photographs on each page with the digital image file of each photograph found on the CD or DVD.

Thank you very much to all those who have assisted us, we look forward to your continued input, advice and criticism.

Regards



Peter Dowling
November 2007

Leo Dowling in a Primary Glider at Belmont Common Victoria, ready to go solo
13 October 1940

D-GCV-0020

Major Road Fawkner, Victorian Gliding Club Grunau Trailer,1940s

L/R Rear: Leo jnr, Leo & Ellen Dowling, Kath Torpie a cousin of the Dowling's, Rosa Dowling whose barn the Gliding Club used for construction and maintenance, Uncle Frank Dowling a cousin of Rosa, Rob Dowling. L/R Front: Joan, Frank & Ellie Dowling

D-GCV-0092

D-GCV-0093

L/R Frank, Robert and Leo Dowling in the background.
The Glider was called the Blue Grunau Baby II (G.B.II) and was built by Rob Dowling, Norm Hyde, Reg Pollard and Leo Dowling in 1948.

The Glider was being prepared at Somerton (Roxburgh Park) for aerial tow to Albert Park Lake where Rob Dowling would perform a number of aerobatic manoeuvres before landing the Glider at Albert Park.
November 1948

D-GCV-0094

Frank Dowling in full flying suit.
At Major Rd Fawkner

Primary Glider being pushed up hill, Mt Fraser, Beveridge, Victoria. circa 1940

D-GCV-0090

Unfortunately out of focus, Primary Glider pilot Leo Dowling, Belmont Common, Geelong, Victoria. circa 1940

D-GCV-0089

Primary Glider being launch at Mordialloc Victoria **D-GCV-0066**

Staged photo, Primary Glider repair to skid **D-GCV-0067**

Gliding Club of Victoria: Merlin
Under construction at Major Rd Fawkner 1943

D-GCV-0081

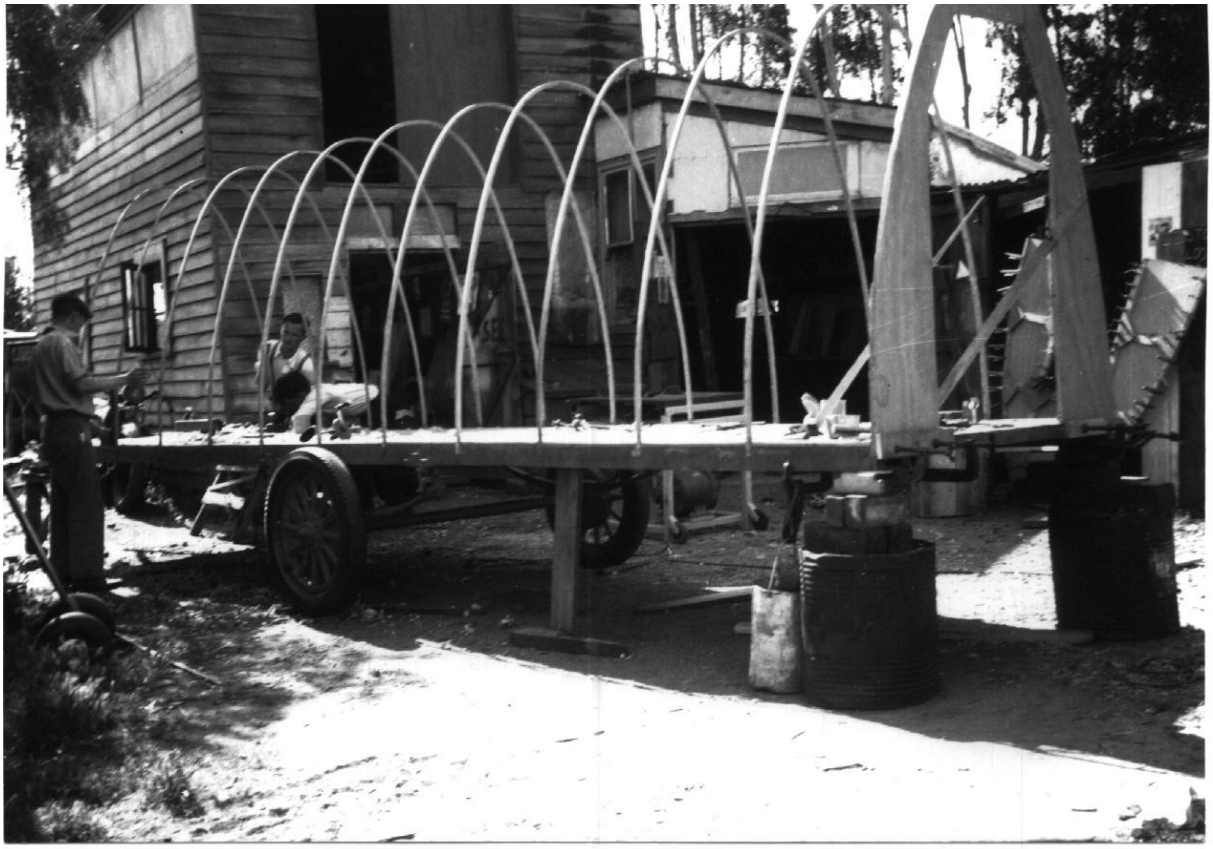
Gliding Club of Victoria: Merlin
ready for covering and painting at Major Rd Fawkner 1943

D-GCV-0080

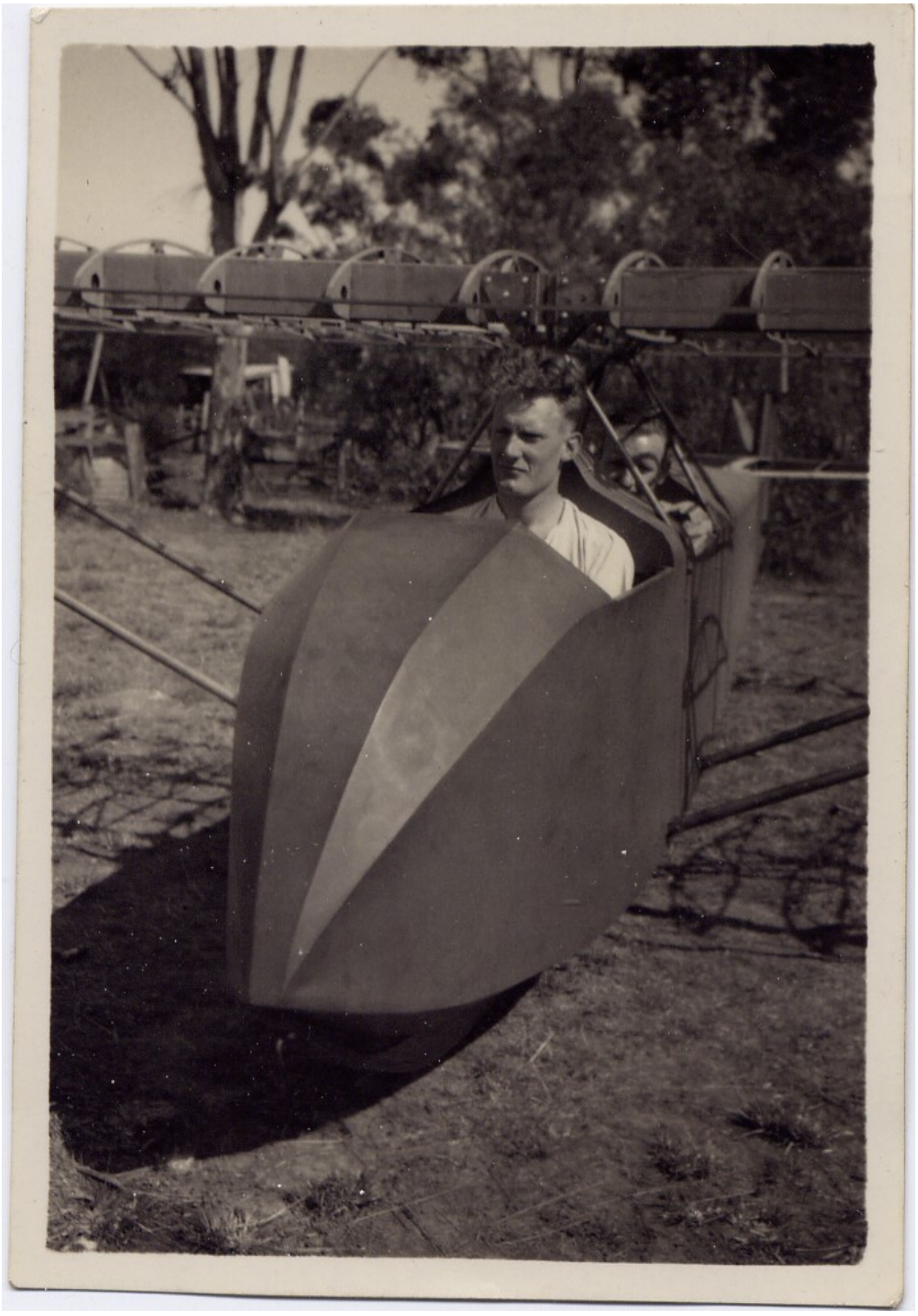
Gliding Club of Victoria: Merlin **D-GCV-0086**
Under construction at Major Rd Fawkner 1943

D-GCV-0064
Gliding Club of Victoria: Merlin 1943
Leo Dowling in front seat, Norm Hyde in rear seat
at Mordialloc Victoria.

Gliding Club of Victoria: Merlin **D-GCV-0085**
Under construction at Major Rd Fawkner 1943



Trailer under construction for Blue Grunau Baby II **D-GCV-0071**
at Major Road Fawkner in 1948
Left is thought to be Frank Dowling, Right thought to be Rob Dowling
Workshop in background



D-GCV-0062

Gliding Club of Victoria. Inscription on rear reads: Merlin nose showing ring attachment. Leo Dowling in front seat, Charlie Lambeth rear seat.
At Major Road Fawkner 1943

Gliding Club of Victoria. Primary Glider **D-GCV-0004**
Believed to be Bill Halliwell

Gliding Club of Victoria. Dodge Winch Launch, Yarram Camp 1946. **D-GCV-0005**
Driven by Rob Dowling

D-GCV-0006

Checzoslavacian Praga 2 seater, 40 H.P 2 cylinder engine, this version of the Prada was built in England by Hillsen Engineering. Photo taken at Belmont Common Airfield Victoria, owned by Howard D'Alton. Circa 1941

D-GCV-0007

Gliding Club of Victoria.
Tiger Moth used for First G.C.V. Aero-tows at Benalla Victoria
1947-48 Camp

Gliding Club of Victoria. Circa 1944-45 **D-GCV-0008**

Mordialloc Hanger, L/R: R.F. (Dick) Duckworth, Unknown, Rob Dowling, Charlie Trescothic, Harry Bartram, Reg Pollard, Edie & Ray Smith

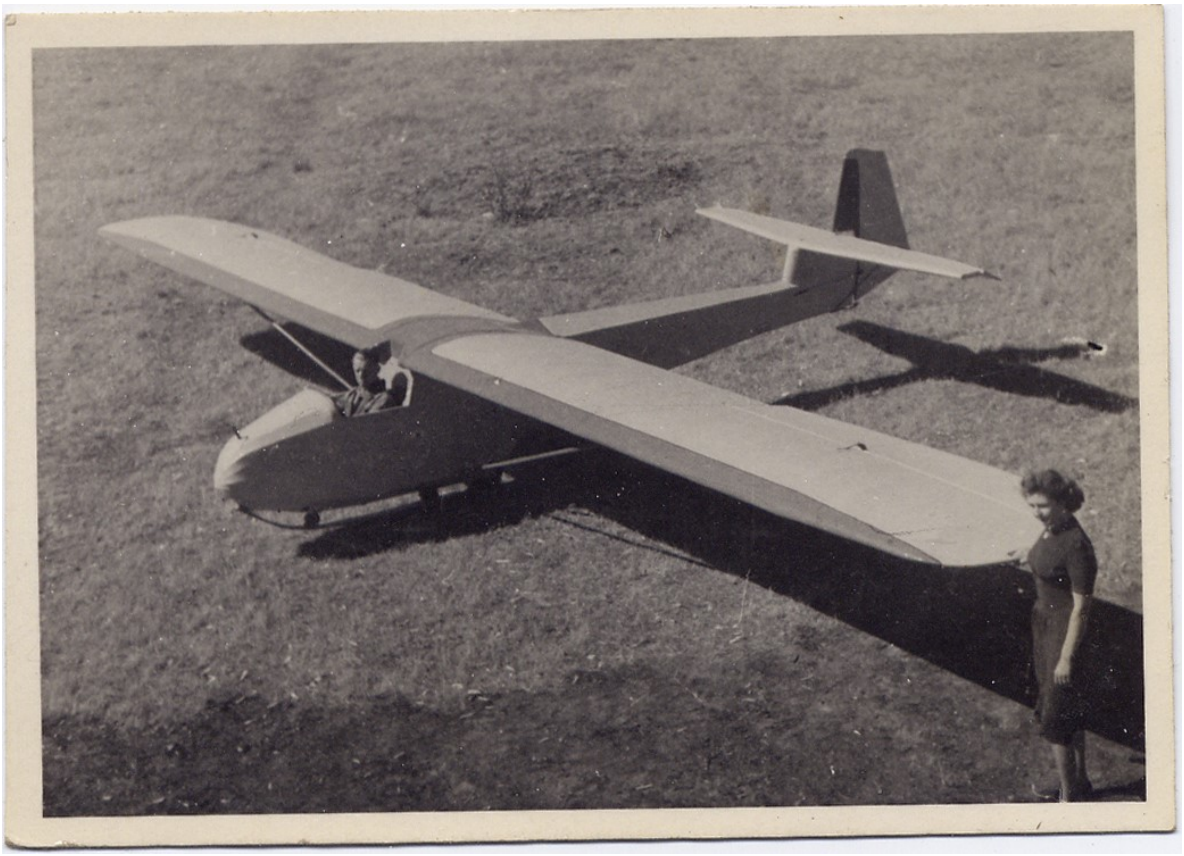
Gliding Club of Victoria. Circa 1944-45 **D-GCV-0009**

H17 small sailplane, built by Harry Bartram and Ken Davies. Location is South side of Mt Fraser Beveridge Victoria, Smiths Farm in background

Gliding Club of Victoria at Beveridge. D-GCV-0010
Grunau Sailplane, the club sailplane, holder of duration record at that time.

Gliding Club of Victoria. D-GCV-0011
No:1 Winch Built by R.F. Duckworth and Ken Davies on 1924 Dodge Car Chassis

Gliding Club of Victoria. D-GCV-0012
Norm Hyde on high speed Launching Winch



Gliding Club of Victoria. 1944 D-GCV-0013

U.T.1. Designed by Norm Hyde built by members of the Gliding Club of Victoria at Major Rd Fawkner Victoria. Pilot is Rob Dowling

Gliding Club of Victoria. 1943 **D-GCV-0014**

Mt Fraser Beveridge, Gliding Club of Victoria Hangers, glider on left is H.17, club trailer centre and Merlin Glider on right, man in foreground is possibly Norm Hyde

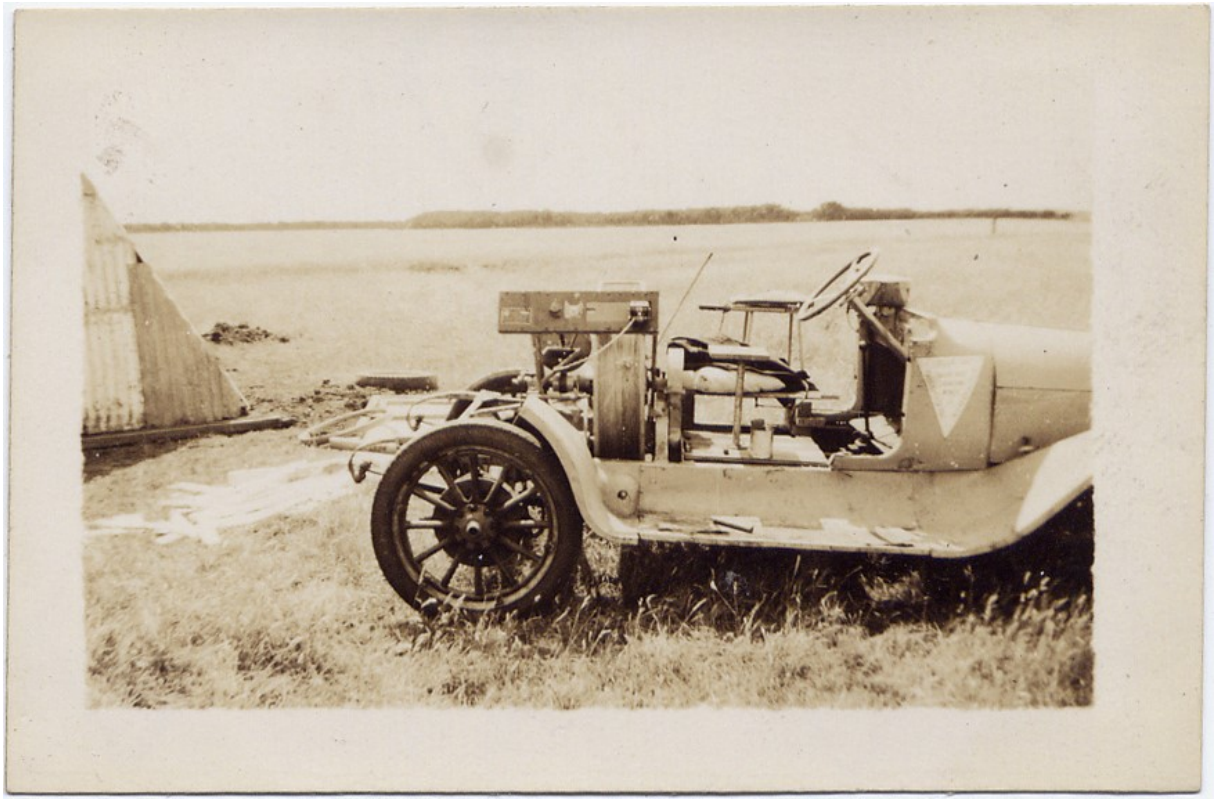
Gliding Club of Victoria, Moon Engine (6 cylinder) Winch **D-GCV-0015**
Winch operator is Ron Roberts

Gliding Club of Victoria No 1 Winch.
Built on 1924 Dodge Chassis (4 Cylinder motor)

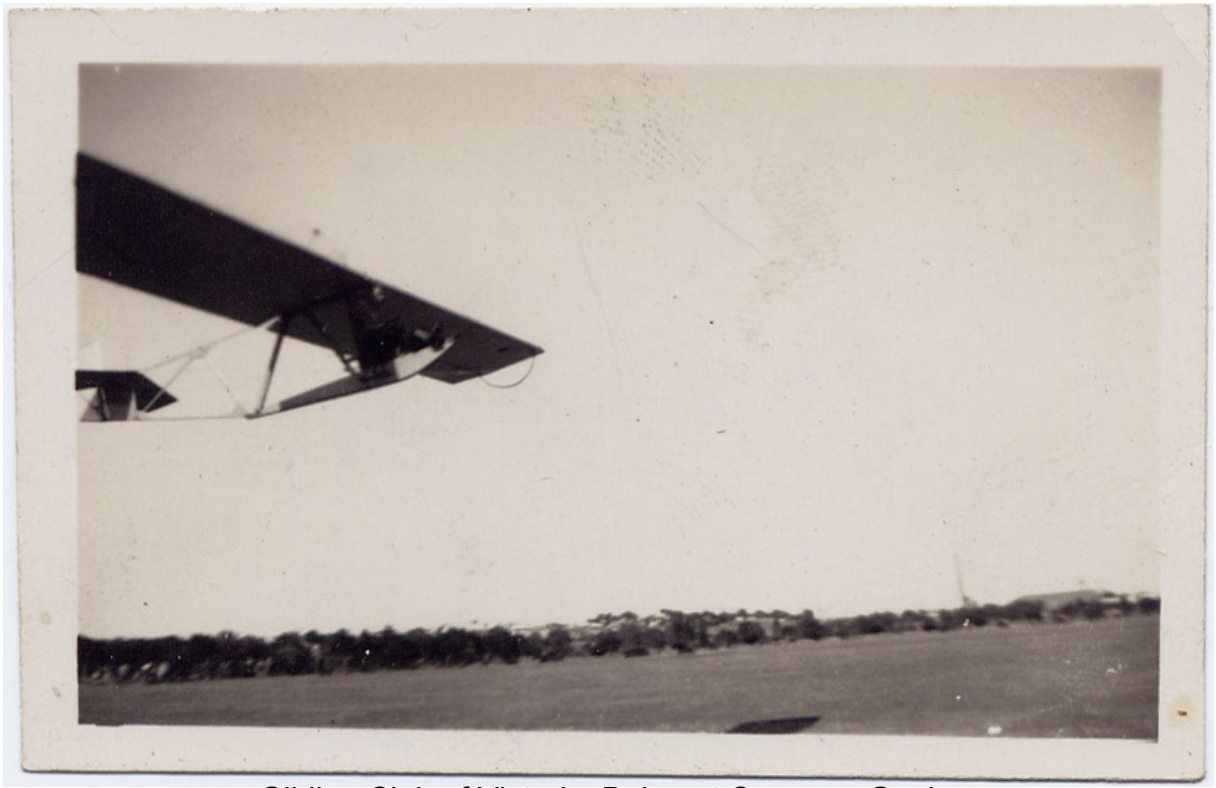
D-GCV-0016

Gliding Club of Victoria.
Merlin Glider, pilot and passenger not yet identified

D-GCV-0017



Gliding Club of Victoria Winch at Mordialloc Victoria. **D-GCV-0018**



Gliding Club of Victoria. Belmont Common Geelong **D-GCV-0019**
Leo Dowling in Primary Glider during takeoff 1940

Gliding Club of Victoria, Belmont Common Geelong **D-GCV-0020**
Leo Dowling in Primary Glider 1940

D-GCV-0021
Glider is a Pratt Stunter
At Pratt Hanger & Workshop Belmont Common Geelong 1940

Gliding Club of Victoria. Circa 1940 **D-GCV-0022**
Repairs to skid on Primary Glider at Belmont Common Geelong

Gliding Club of Victoria. Dodge Tow Car at Benalla. **D-GCV-0023**
Jim Darbyshire on the bonnet.

Gliding Club of Victoria. **D-GCV-0024**

Gliding Club of Victoria first Benalla Camp Christmas 1947-48. **D-GCV-0025**

Gliding Club of Victoria on way to Benalla Christmas Camp 1947 D-GCV-0026
L/R: Leo & Frank Dowling, Ken Davies & Keith Chamberlain

Gliding Club of Victoria. D-GCV-0027
First Benalla Camp 1947
Dowling's Nash

Gliding Club of Victoria, at Somerton Nov 1948. **D-GCV-0028**

Rob Dowling in Blue Grunau Baby II Glider prior to aero-tow to Albert Park Lake. Left is Bob McAlice, right is Malcolm Alexander.

Gliding Club of Victoria, Somerton Nov 1948 **D-GCV-0029**

L/R Rear standing Rob & Frank Dowling,
L/R Front: Unknown, Bob McAlice, Malcolm Alexander, Unknown & Lin Beck.

Gliding Club of Victoria Benalla Camp 1949 **D-GCV-0030**
Frank Dowling Winch Driver

Gliding Club of Victoria.
Benalla 1948

D-GCV-0031

Gliding Club of Victoria Benalla 1948
Gliders L/R: Utility, Blue Grunau Baby II & Primary

D-GCV-0032

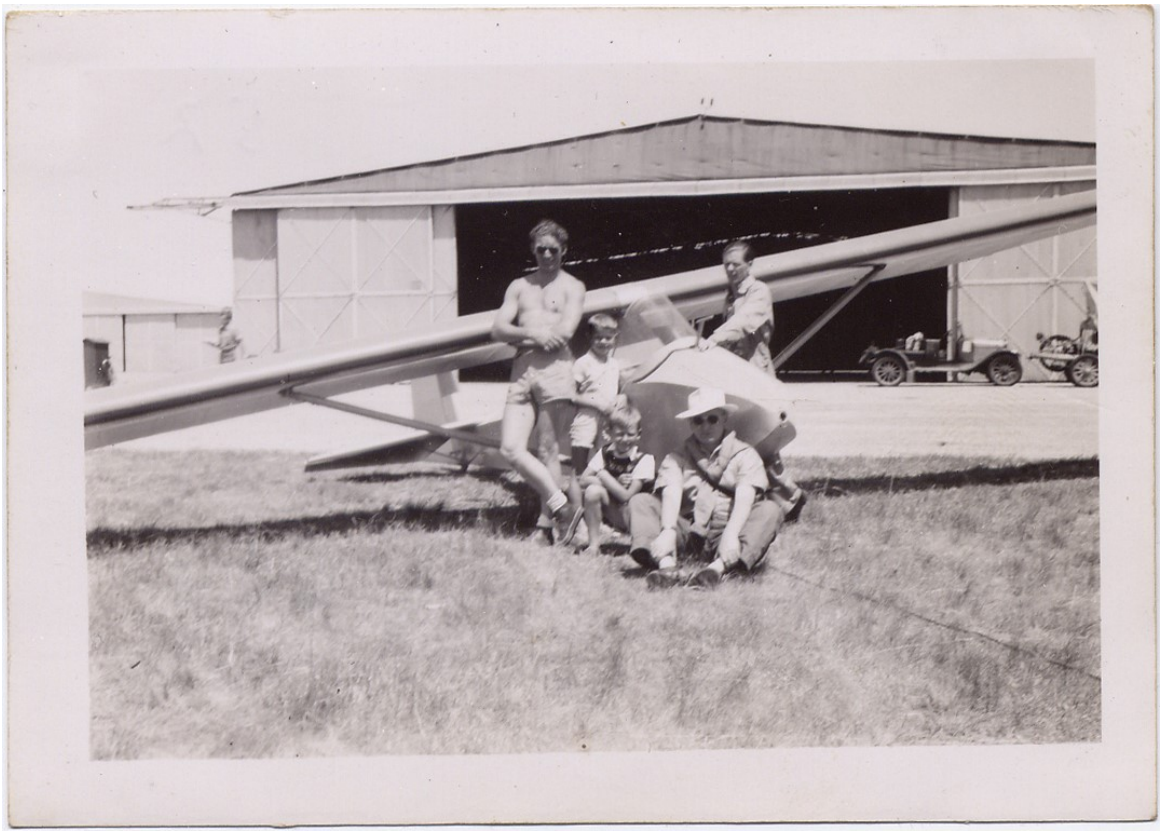
Gliding Club of Victoria.
Benalla 1948

D-GCV-0033

Gliding Club of Victoria. Benalla 1948

D-GCV-0034

Blue Grunau Baby II, Pilot E. Desmond and Frank Dowling at side



Gliding Club of Victoria. **D-GCV-0035**

Blue Grunau Baby II, Benalla 1947-48
Left standing Pat Burke, right standing Laurie Exell

D-GCV-0036

Gliding Club of Victoria, Blue Grunau Baby II

L/R: Jim Darbyshire, Frank Dowling, Rhoda Barker, Ron Barker
Benalla 1947-48

Gliding Club of Victoria. D-GCV-0037

Blue Grunau Baby II, Benalla 1948
L/R: Jim Darbyshire, Rob Dowling, Ron Sutton & 2 x Not Yet Identified

Gliding Club of Victoria. Utility Glider at Benalla 1947. D-GCV-0038
L/R: Rob Dowling Rhoda Barker, pilot T.B.I, Ron Sutton

Gliding Club of Victoria, Utility Glider at Benalla 1947-48 **D-GCV-0039**
L/R: H. Bartram, Unknown, Pat Burke

Gliding Club of Victoria, Benalla 1947-48 **D-GCV-0040**
Grey Grunau Baby II
Rhoda Barker.

Gliding Club of Victoria, Grey Grunau Baby II, at Benalla 1947-48 **D-GCV-0041**
L/R: Dave Darbyshire, Rhoda Barker, Unknown

Gliding Club of Victoria, Benalla 1947-48 **D-GCV-0042**
L/R: Rhoda Barker, Bill Halliwell, Frank Dowling

Gliding Club of Victoria. D-GCV-0043

L/R: Ian Robinson, passenger in car possibly Bruce Hearn snr,
other Not Yet Identified

Gliding Club of Victoria, Benalla 1947-48. D-GCV-0044
Bob McAlice others Not Yet Identified

Gliding Club of Victoria, Benalla 1947-48 **D-GCV-0045**
Driver Not Yet Identified, Rhoda Barker.
Dodge Tow Car and Winch

Gliding Club of Victoria Benalla 1947-48 **D-GCV-0046**
L/R: Rob & Frank Dowling others Not Yet Identified
Cooling off in Broken River during heat wave.

Gliding Club of Victoria, Benalla 1947-48 **D-GCV-0047**
L/R: Not Yet Identified Frank Dowling far right

Gliding Club of Victoria. **D-GCV-0048**
Tiger Moth used for first Aerotows at Benalla 1947
Pilot Not Yet Identified

Gliding Club of Victoria, Benalla 1947-48 **D-GCV-0049**
Tiger Moth Tug, Pilot Not Yet Identified

Gliding Club of Victoria, Benalla 1947-48 **D-GCV-0050**
L.Exell at the prop

Gliding Club of Victoria, Somerton 1948. **D-GCV-0051**
Rob Dowling in Blue Grunau Baby II.

D-GCV-0052

Gliding Club of Victoria Utility Glider at Benalla 1947-48
Bob McAlice

Gliding Club of Victoria.
Laurie Exell

D-GCV-0053

Gliding Club of Victoria.
L/R: Driver Laurie Exell, Not Yet Identified boy,
Ron Barker

D-GCV-0054

Gliding Club of Victoria.
Winch Driver Laurie Exell

D-GCV-0055

Gliding Club of Victoria. Grey Grunau Baby II at Benalla 1947-48.
Keith Chamberlin

D-GCV-0056

Gliding Club of Victoria, Benalla 1947-48. **D-GCV-0057**
L/R: J. Edmonds, Rob Dowling, Uwe Radok fitting Barograph

Gliding Club of Victoria, Benalla 1947-48 **D-GCV-0058**
Not Yet Identified & Lin Beck
Grey Grunau Baby II.

Gliding Club of Victoria, Benalla 1947-48 D-GCV-0059

Frank Dowling on left of Tiger Moth Tug, Pilot and riders Not Yet Identified

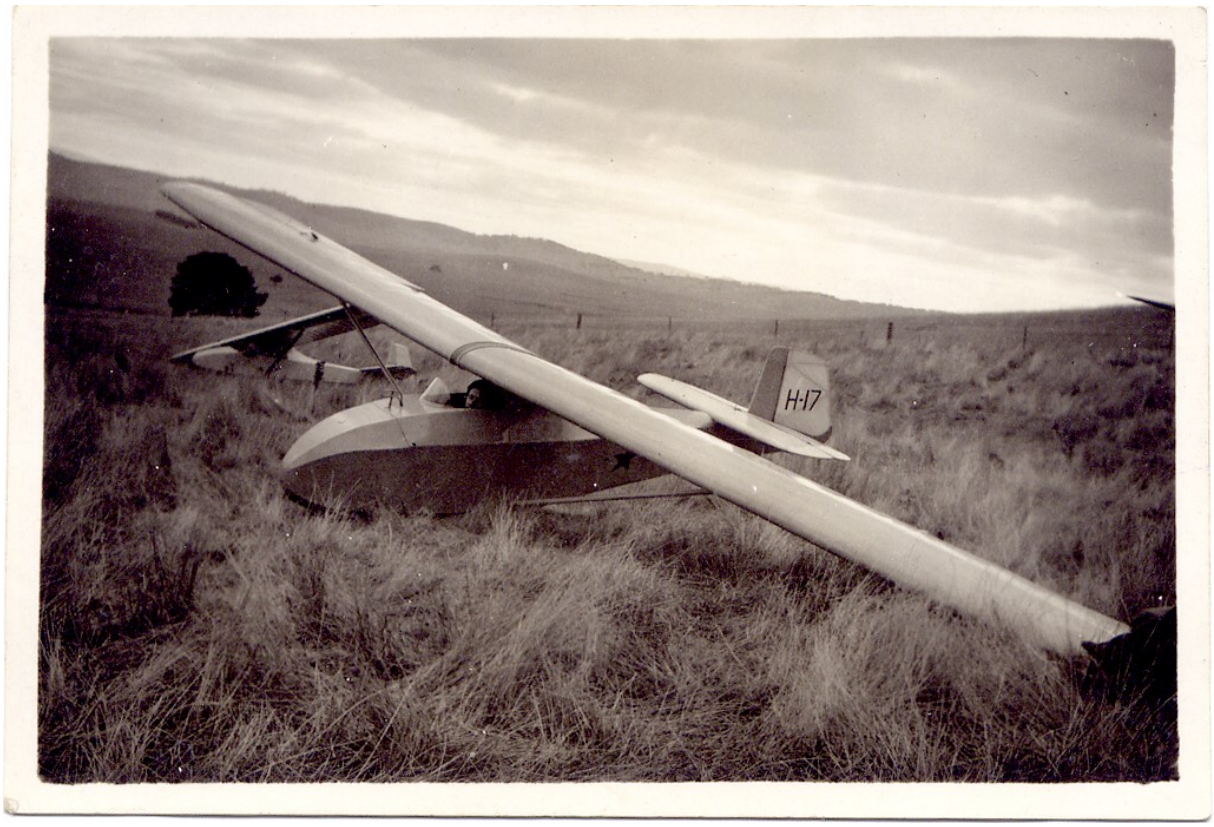
Gliding Club of Victoria. D-GCV-0060

Blue Grunau Baby II, aero tow by Tiger Moth from Somerton November 1948
En Route to aerobatic display and landing at Albert Park .
Rob Dowling pilot.

Gliding Club of Victoria. D-GCV-0061
Not Yet Identified

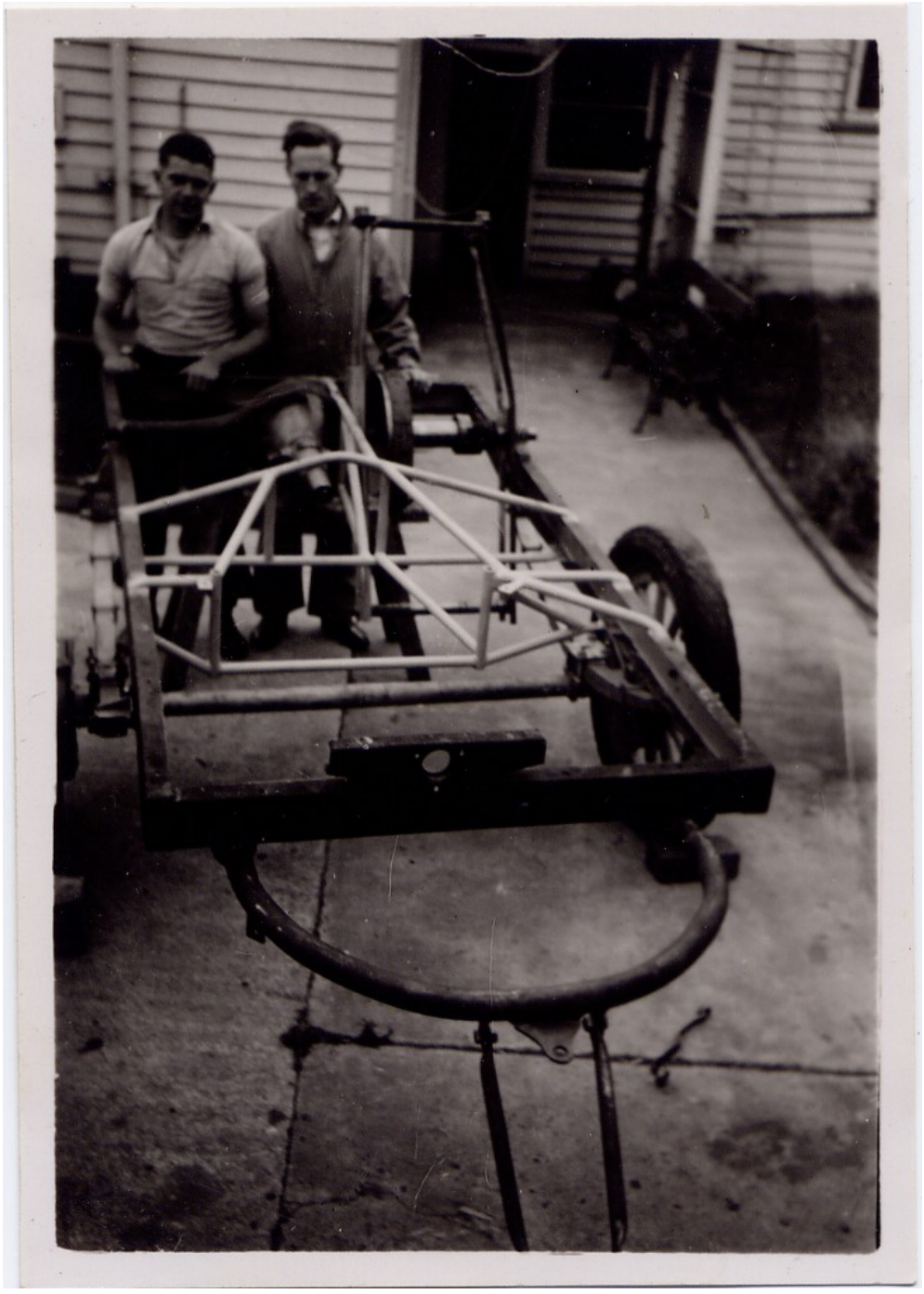
Gliding Club of Victoria. D-GCV-0068
Drying the Laundry
H.17 Built By Ken Davies & Harry Bartram

Gliding Club of Victoria. Grey Grunau Baby II at Beveridge Vic. **D-GCV-0069**
Not Yet Identified



D-GCV-0070

Gliding Club of Victoria.
H17 at Beveridge Vic.



D-GCV-0072

Gliding Club of Victoria.
Frame work of winch being built at R. Duckworths house Princess St Seddon
Workers Not Yet Identified, Circa: 1939

D-GCV-0001

Olympia at One Tree Hill near Adelaide S.A. Circa 1947
Pilot and owner John Wotherspoon

Olympia at One Tree Hill near Adelaide S.A.
Pilot and owner John Wotherspoon

D-GCV-0002

Olympia at One Tree Hill near Adelaide S.A. Circa 1947 D-GCV-0083
L/R: T.B.I. Adelaide Club Member, Pilot John Wotherspoon and T.B.I.

Olympia at One Tree Hill near Adelaide S.A. Circa 1947 D-GCV-0091
Pilot and owner John Wotherspoon

Gliding Club of Victoria. **D-GCV-0073**
Trailer on way to Airshow at Yea Victoria

Gliding Club of Victoria. **D-GCV-0074**

Difficult to see winch being towed with trailer under tow in background near Yea Victoria.

Gliding Club of Victoria Trailer and Members at Yea Victoria **D-GCV-0088**

Gliding Club of Victoria Members at Yea Victoria **D-GCV-0087**

L/R Rear: T.B.I , T.B.I H. Bartram, Grace Roberts, A. Hardinge, K. Davies.
L/R Front: C. Lambeth, R. Duckworth , R. Dowling N. Hyde.

Gliding Club of Victoria. **D-GCV-0075**
Blue Grunau Baby II
Yarram Camp 1946

Gliding Club of Victoria: Merlin **D-GCV-0086**
Under construction at Major Rd Fawkner 1943

Gliding Club of Victoria Utility Glider at rear of Workshop at Dowling's Major Roads Fawkner Victoria **D-GCV-0082**

Primary Glider launch at Belmont Common Victoria 1940 **D-GCV-0089**

D-GCV-0003

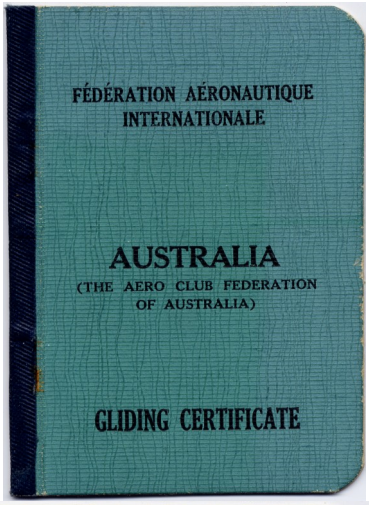
Gliding Club of Victoria.
H17 and one of the builders, possibly Harry Bartram or Ken Davies

D-GCV-0084

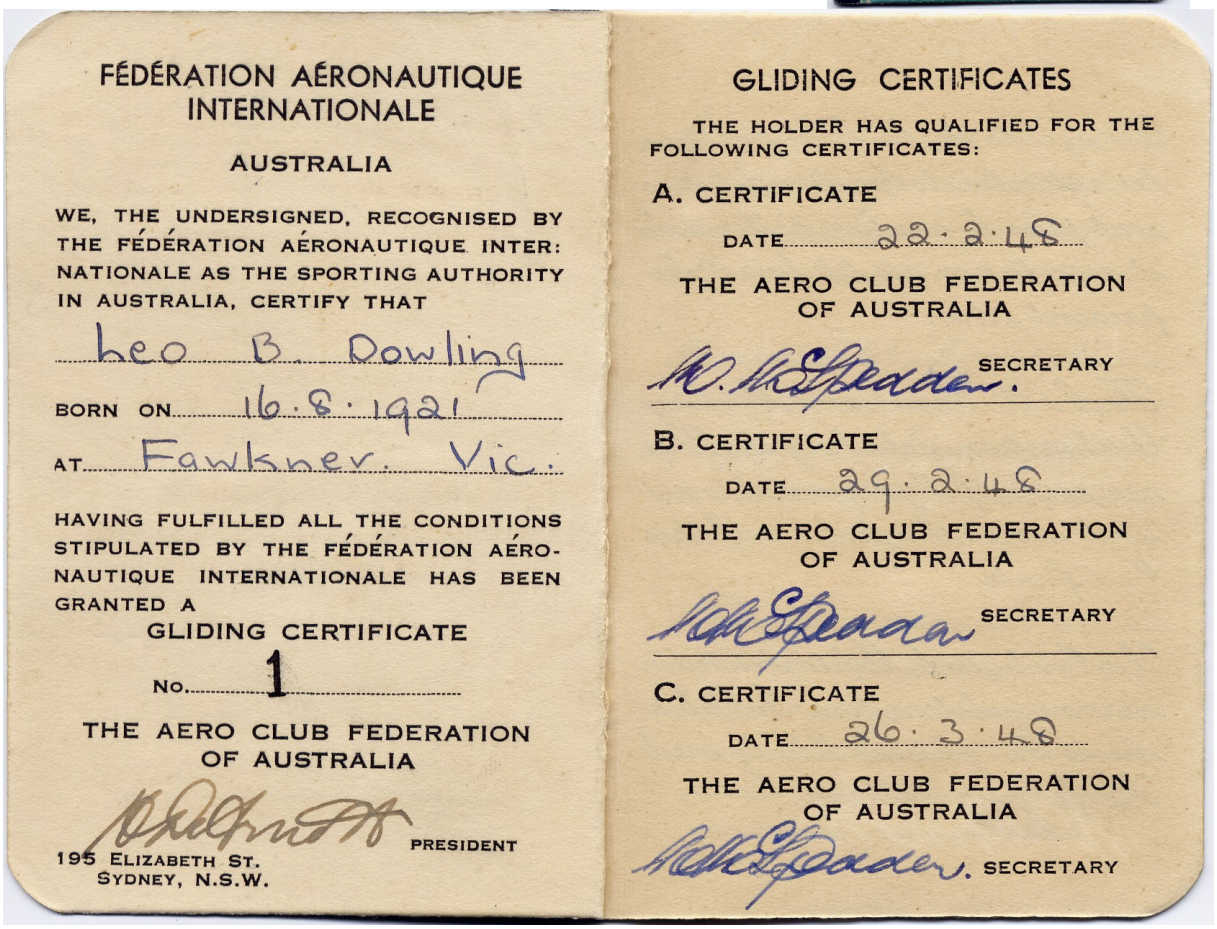
Gliding Club of Victoria, Benalla 1947.
Rob Dowling in Blue Grunau Baby II Glider

Australian Gliding Certificate

For several years the pioneers of Gliding in Australia had lobbied the authority, in their case 'The Aero Club Federation of Australia' acting under authority of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale to certify their pilots. Finally in late 1947 they agreed to do so and the Gliding Club of Victoria Secretary Dick Duckworth was advised to submit the credentials of its qualifying member pilots for certification.



The Secretary scrambled to find, complete and submit the necessary paperwork as soon as possible. All the paperwork for the qualifying pilots was assembled in one envelope and submitted en masse. So it would be a raffle to see who would receive Gliding Certificate No 1. Following is that Certificate.



FÉDÉRATION AÉRONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE

AUSTRALIA

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, RECOGNISED BY THE FÉDÉRATION AÉRONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE AS THE SPORTING AUTHORITY IN AUSTRALIA, CERTIFY THAT

Leo B. Dowling

BORN ON 16.8.1921

AT Fawkner. Vic.

HAVING FULFILLED ALL THE CONDITIONS STIPULATED BY THE FÉDÉRATION AÉRONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE HAS BEEN GRANTED A

GLIDING CERTIFICATE

No. 1

THE AERO CLUB FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA

PRESIDENT

195 ELIZABETH ST.
SYDNEY, N.S.W.

GLIDING CERTIFICATES

THE HOLDER HAS QUALIFIED FOR THE FOLLOWING CERTIFICATES:

A. CERTIFICATE

DATE 22.2.48

THE AERO CLUB FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA

SECRETARY

B. CERTIFICATE

DATE 29.2.48

THE AERO CLUB FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA

SECRETARY

C. CERTIFICATE

DATE 26.3.48

THE AERO CLUB FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA

SECRETARY

As is evident from the above, the No:1 certificate was awarded to Leo Dowling of Major Road Fawkner. My father (Leo Dowling) has always gone to great pains to inform us that there were many pioneers before him who deserved to receive the No 1 certificate. The reality is that licences or certifications are not awarded for years of service but as proof of having been certified or having qualified just like a marriage licence. Just because your marriage licence has a smaller number than mine doesn't make you a better husband or wife than me, it just indicates you got your sentence before me. Acknowledging who was the first, the second or third and so on from a pioneering point of view is the responsibility of "The Federation" through an honour roll or legends of gliding list. The significance of the No:1 Certificate is that it date stamps the day Australian Gliding came of age, the date Australian Gliding was officially recognised by the international authority.

In conclusion may I say this, Dad (Leo Dowling) has kept the No: 1 certificate with great pride and humility, always recognising the contribution made by those who came before him.

Les agents de la force publique, les autorités civiles et militaires sont pries de vouloir prêter aide et assistance au titulaire du présent titre.

The Civil, Naval and Military Authorities, including the Police, are respectfully requested to aid and assist the holder of this Certificate.

Die Civil- und Militärbehörden werden gebeten, dem Inhaber dieses Zeugnisses Schutz und Hülfe zu gewähren.

Se ruega á las autoridades, tanto civiles como militares, se sirvan prestar su ayuda y assistencia al portador del presente titulo.

Gli agenti delle forza publica e le autorità civili e militari sono pregati di voler dare aiuto ed assistenza al titolare del presente libretto.

Покорнейше просят представителей военной и гражданской властей, а также органов милиции оказывать возможную помощь и содействие владельцу настоящего удостоверения.

L. Dowling

SIGNATURE OF HOLDER

ASSOCIATED AUSTRALIAN AERO CLUBS

195 ELIZABETH STREET
SYDNEY

CHAIRMAN :
H. D. ARNOTT, A.R.AE.S.I.

SECRETARY :
M. G. MCSPEDDEN, A.C.A. (AUST.)

MEMBER CLUBS :
ROYAL VICTORIAN AERO CLUB
ROYAL AERO CLUB OF NEW SOUTH WALES
ROYAL AERO CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
ROYAL QUEENSLAND AERO CLUB
TASMANIAN AERO CLUB
ROYAL AERO CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

TELEPHONE : M 3755
CABLE & TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS
" AUSAEROCLUBS "
SYDNEY

23rd March, 1948.

L.B. Dowling Esq.,
Major Road,
FAWKNER N.15. VICTORIA.

Dear Sir,

Re Gliding

I acknowledge receipt of your application for "A" and "B" Gliding Certificates, and enclose the Associations receipt for your remittance of 10/-.

Interim Gliding Certificate No. 1 is also enclosed. For your information I might point out that Official Certificates, are, for the present, unavailable, and that I have therefore retained the two photographs forwarded with your application.

Would you kindly sign the enclosed form of receipt and return to me at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,

M. G. Spedden.

Encl.

Secretary

No 110. 18th March 1948.

Received from L. B. Dowling

the sum of ——— pounds

ten shillings and ——— pence

Fee for Gliding Certificate

ASSOCIATED AUSTRALIAN AERO CLUBS

£ — 10/— M. G. Spedden

Secretary

ASSOCIATED AUSTRALIAN AERO CLUBS

195 ELIZABETH STREET
SYDNEY

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ROYAL AERO CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
ROYAL QUEENSLAND AERO CLUB
TASMANIAN AERO CLUB
ROYAL AERO CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

TELEPHONE : M 3755
CABLE & TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS
" AUSAEROCLUBS "
SYDNEY

6th April, 1948.

L.B. Dowling Esq.,
Major Road,
FAWKNER. N.15. VICTORIA.

Dear Sir,

Herewith Interim Gliding Certificate No. 1 duly completed for your "C" Certificate.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary

THE AERO CLUB FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA

195 ELIZABETH STREET
SYDNEY

PRESIDENT:
H. D. ARNOTT, A.R.A.E.S.

SECRETARY:
M. G. MCSPEDDEN, A.C.A. (AUST.)

MEMBER CLUBS:
ROYAL VICTORIAN AERO CLUB
ROYAL AERO CLUB OF NEW SOUTH WALES
ROYAL AERO CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
ROYAL QUEENSLAND AERO CLUB
TASMANIAN AERO CLUB
ROYAL AERO CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

TELEPHONE: M 3755
CABLE & TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS "AUSAEROCLUBS" SYDNEY

3rd April, 1950.

L. B. Dowling, Esq.,
Major Road,
FAWKNER. N15. VIC.

Dear Sir,

Re Gliding Certificate

Herewith Gliding Certificate No. 1 in lieu of interim certificate already issued.

Kindly return interim certificate and acknowledge receipt of the enclosed Certificate.

Please note that your signature is required at the foot of your photograph affixed to the back page.

Yours faithfully,

M. G. Spedden

Secretary.

Encl.